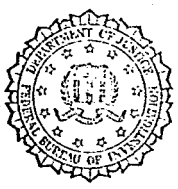
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



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FBI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 12, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated August 7, 1964, requesting certain statistical data as to the scope of this Bureau's investigative efforts since the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

As of July 31, 1964, this Bureau submitted to you over 1756 investigative reports comprising over 17,200 pages. In addition, over 3682 items of physical evidence were received in the FBI Laboratory for technical examination and our Exhibit experts constructed and delivered to you detailed scale models of the assassination site and garage of the Dallas City Jail with accompanying visual aids.

We did not keep track of the number of interviews conducted or the number of Agent-days expended on this investigation by virtually every one of our fifty-six continental field offices and representatives abroad. To obtain this information would be an extremely laborious and time consuming statistical research project in view of the scope of our activities and the number of personnel involved for over an eight-month period.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

As an example of the number of personnel involved, I would like to point out that immediately after the assassination I transferred on a temporary basis over eighty additional FBI personnel to our Dallas Office alone to assist in affording this matter expeditious and thorough handling.

In addition to the large number of field personnel involved, a considerable number of supervisory officials at our Washington Headquarters have been exclusively assigned to this investigation since its inception and will continue to be so assigned until no longer needed.

As this investigation progressed, we received an increasing number of special requests from members of your staff. Some requests imposed a very tight deadline on us and some necessitated travel to and from Dallas and other locations by our Agent, technical and supervisory personnel. It was necessary on several occasions to make special arrangements to enable your staff to handle necessary inquiries and to obtain specialized equipment and services to facilitate your investigation such as the arrangements for the partial re-enactment in Dallas on May 24, 1964, and the obtaining of a helicopter for aerial photography.

The above summarizes to some degree the areas in which this Bureau has endeavored to cooperate with the President's Commission in handling its responsibility. I hope this information will be of assistance to you. You can be assured that I will continue to insist that every logical effort be made by FBI personnel to assist you in this historic and tragic undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover